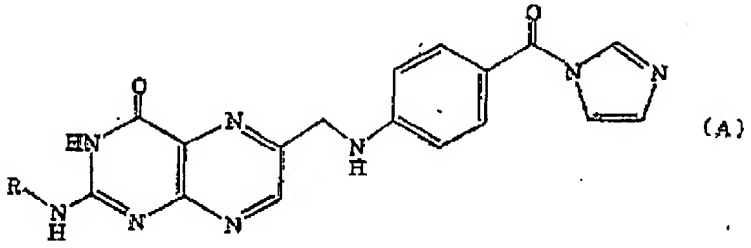
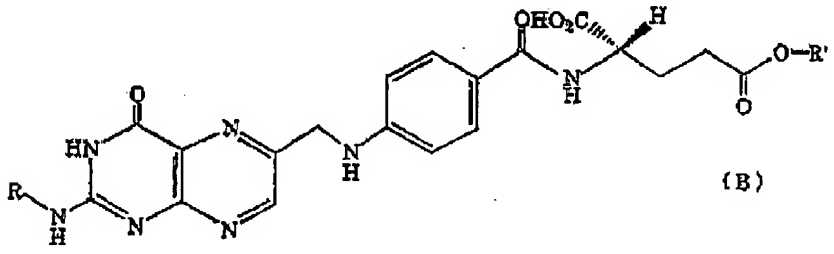
AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A process for producing a folic ~~acid derivatives which comprises~~ acid-amide compound comprising: a) ~~a step of~~ reacting an imidazolide represented by ~~a~~ the following formula (A):



(A)

[[(]]~~in the formula~~[[,]] ~~R stands for a protective~~ wherein R represents a protecting group ~~of~~ for amino ~~group~~acid[[)]] and is an amino acid protecting group used in peptide synthesis, with γ-lower alkyl L-glutamate in an organic solvent in the presence of ~~a base~~ an organic strong base to form a γ-lower alkyl 2-amino-protected folate which is represented by ~~a~~ the following formula (B):



(B)

[[(]]~~in the formula~~[[,]] wherein R has the same ~~signification to its definition given as to~~ the definition as in formula (A), and R' ~~stands for~~ represents a lower alkyl[[)]]; and

b) ~~a step~~ ~~of~~ reacting a γ-lower alkyl 2-amino-protected folate represented by the formula (B) with an amine compound of ~~a~~ the following formula (C):

$$R'' - L - NH_2 \qquad (C)$$

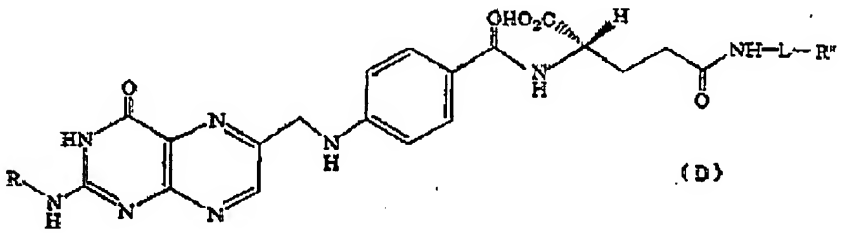
[[{]]~~in the formula~~[[,]] wherein R" ~~stands for a reactive group readily reactable~~ represents a group that forms a covalent bond with a functional group of an organic compound and which has no adverse effect on the binding of folic acid to a folic acid recognizing receptor, and

~~L stands for a linkage~~ represents a valence bond, C_1 - C_5 alkylene or an oligo- or poly-(oxyalkylene) of ~~a~~ the following formula,

$$-(CH_2CH(R^C)-O-)_nCH_2CH(R^C)-$$

[[(]]~~in which R^c stands for~~ wherein R^C represents hydrogen or methyl, and n is an integer of from 1 - 10,000[[)}]]

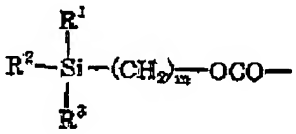
to produce a folic ~~acid derivative~~ acid-amine compound of ~~a~~ the following formula (D):



(D)

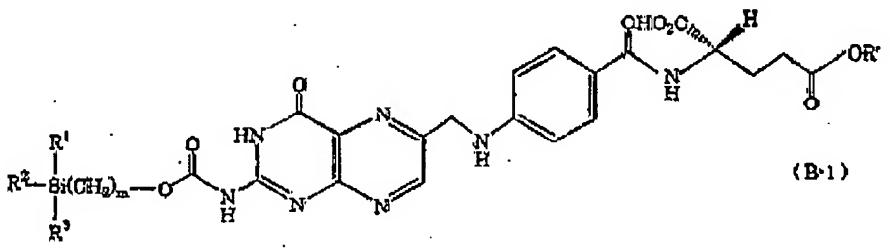
[[(]]~~in the formula~~[[,]] wherein R has the same ~~signification to its definition given as to the~~ definition as in the above formula (A), and L and R" have the same ~~significations to those as defined as to the~~ definitions as in the above formula (C)[[)]].

2. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The process according to Claim 1, ~~in which~~ wherein R in the formula (A) is a group represented by the following formula,



[[(]]~~in the formula~~[[,]] wherein R^1, R^2 and R^3 each independently ~~stands for~~ represents lower alkyl, and m ~~stands for~~ represents an integer of from 1 – 4[[)]].

3. (Currently Amended) A Gamma-lower alkyl 2-amino-protected folate represented by the following formula (B-1):



(B-1)

[[(]]~~in the formula~~[[,]] wherein R^1, R^2 and R^3 each independently ~~stands for~~ represents lower alkyl; m ~~stands for~~ represents an integer of 1 - 4; and R' ~~stands for~~ represents lower alkyl[[)]].

4. (New) The process according to Claim 1, wherein R represents benzyloxycarbonyl, t-butoxycarbonyl, acetyl, trifluoromethanesulfonyl, or p-toluenesulfonyl.

5. (New) The process according to Claim 2, wherein R represents trimethylsilylmethoxycarbonyl, 2-trimethylsilylethoxycarbonyl, 3-trimethylsilylpropoxycarbonyl, 2-ethyldimethylsilylethoxycarbonyl, 2-tert-dimethylsilylethoxycarbonyl, triethylsilylmethoxycarbonyl, or 2-triethylsilylethoxycarbonyl.